MARVEL COMICS
BEWARE THE RAGE OF A DESPERATE MAN
PART 3
SPIDER-MAN
DEATH FOR DEMOGOBLIN...
...AT THE HANDS OF THE SUPREMELY POWERFUL HOBGOBLIN!
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Tom Lyle '94
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Stan Lee PRESENTS:
SPIDER-MAN.

in

BEWARE THE RAGE OF A DESPERATE MAN!

CHAPTER 3

DEMONS OF OUR PAST

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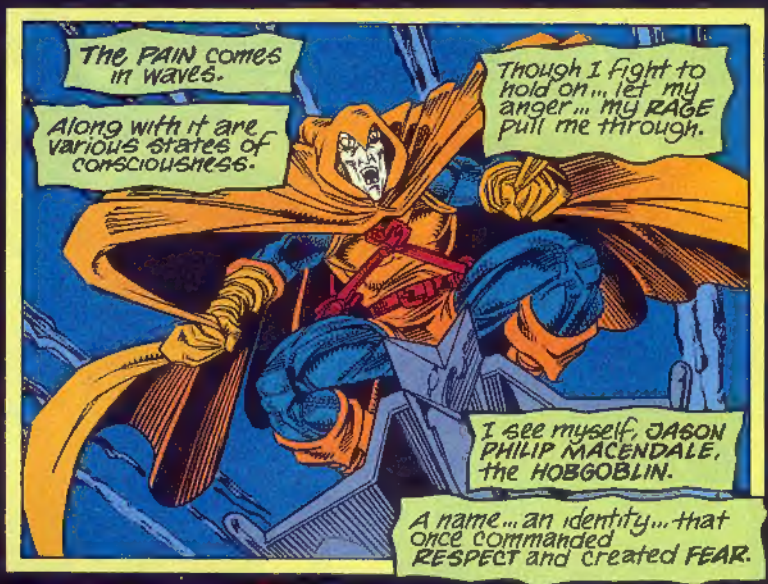
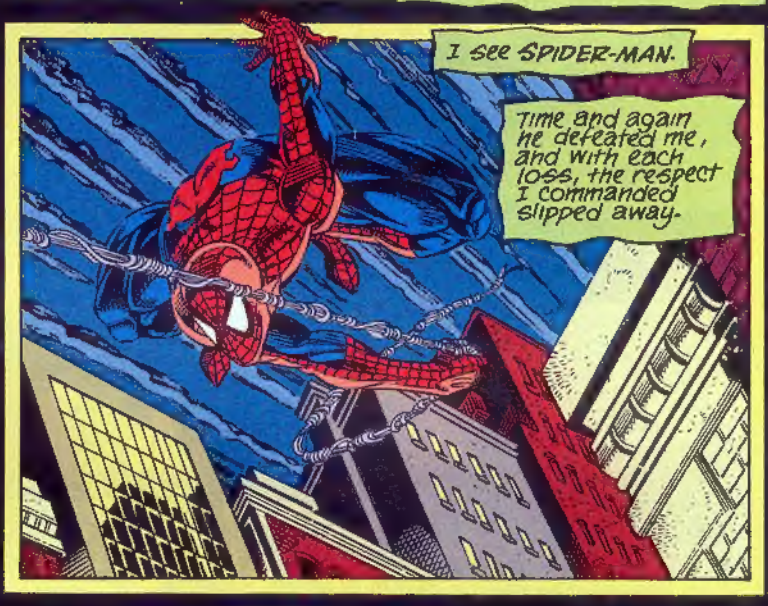
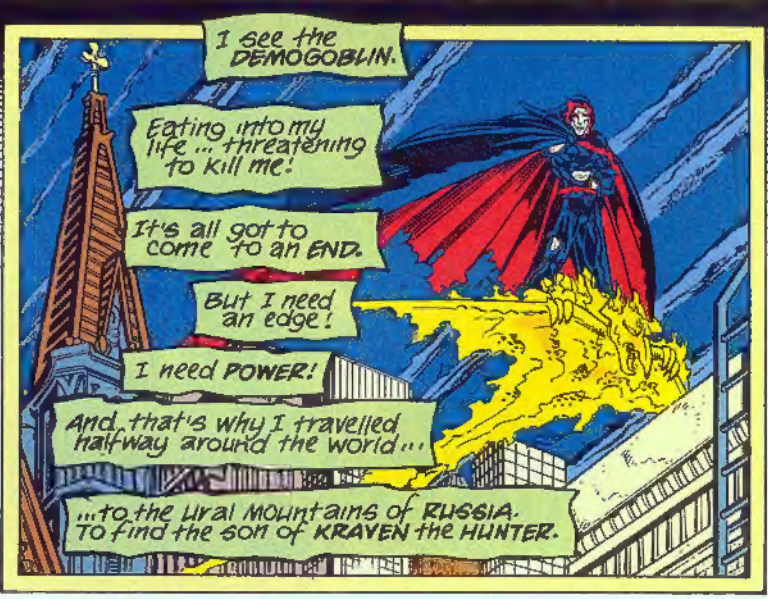

The PAIN comes in waves.
Along with it are various states of consciousness.
Though I fight to hold on... let my anger... my RAGE pull me through.
I see myself, JASON PHILIP MACENDALE, the HOBGOBLIN.
A name... an identity... that once commanded RESPECT and created FEAR.




I see the DEMOGOBLIN.
Eating into my life... threatening to kill me!
It's all got to come to an END.
But I need an edge!
I need POWER!
And, that's why I travelled halfway around the world...
...to the Ural Mountains of RUSSIA. To find the son of KRAVEN the HUNTER.

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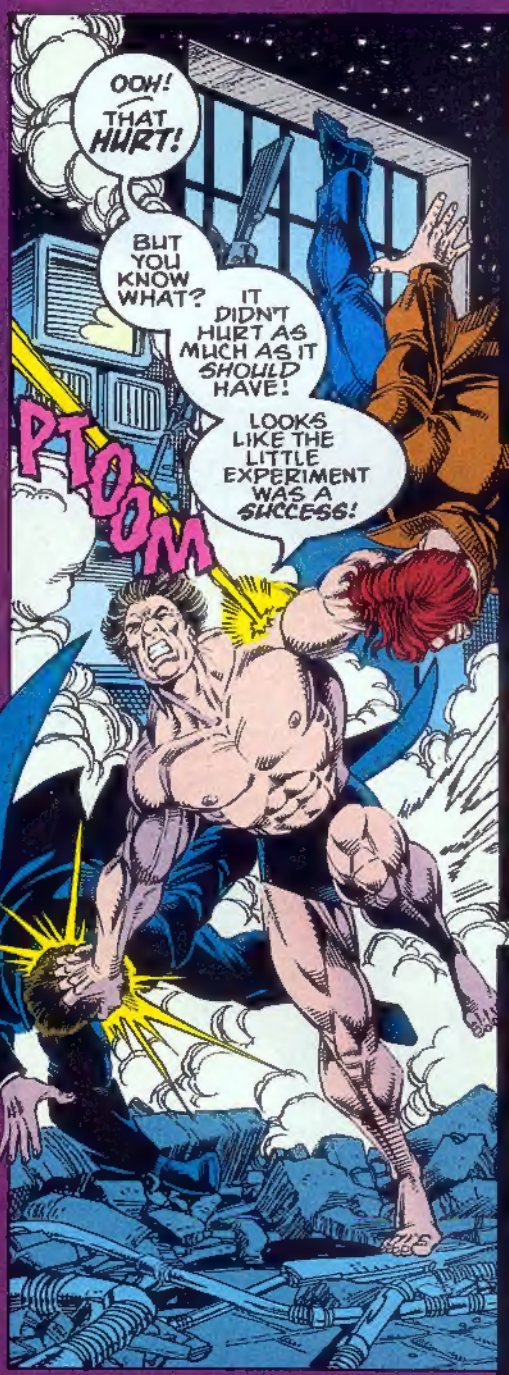
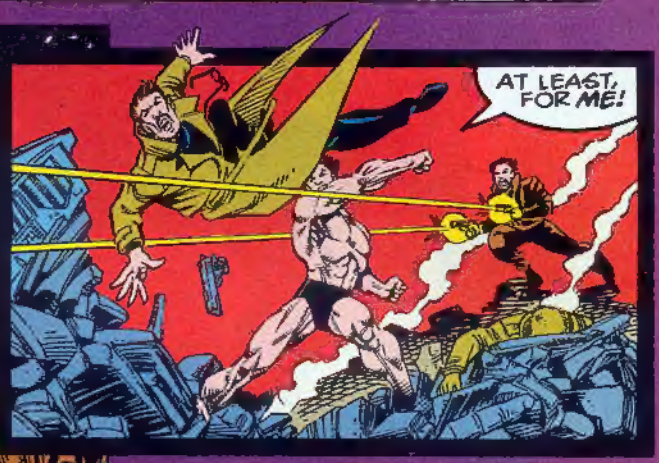
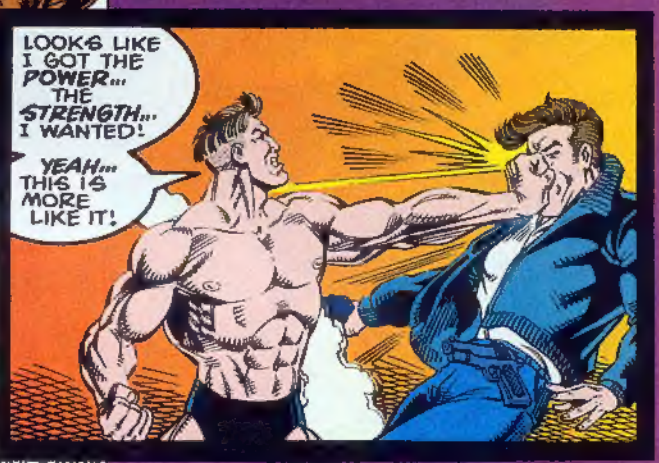
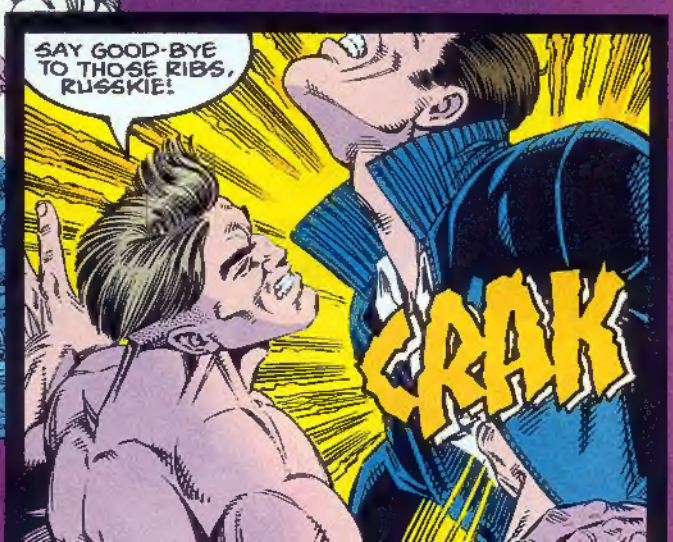
He promised me power... he is giving me BETRAYAL!
It's NOT going to happen!
I won't be humiliated AGAIN! My GLIDER, laden with explosive pumpkin bombs, is on its way.
My victory... my TIME... is at hand!
LET GO OF ME!
THE EXPERIMENT... THE PAIN... IS OVER!
THE ERUPTIONS OF MY MUSCLES HAVE STOPPED!
BUT... YOU TRIED TO KILL ME...
IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
GREGOR, PLEASE HAVE SOMEBODY EXECUTE HIM. HIS RANTING IS A BIT TIRE-SOME.
OF COURSE, VLADIMIR. THE MEN ARE TARGETING HIS SKULL EVEN AS WE--
KTASH
VLADIMIR, PLEASE LEAVE THE PREMISES UNTIL WE HAVE CONTAINED THE SITUATION.
HOW HAS THIS GONE SO WRONG, GREGOR?
I DO NOT KNOW. HE MUST HAVE HIDDEN THE GLIDER OUTSIDE THE GROUNDS. ALL WILL BE UNDER CONTROL SHORTLY.
BKOOM BKOOM BKOOM BKOOM

DO NOT FAIL ME, GREGOR.
I WILL NOT, BUT PLEASE GO TO A SECURE AREA UNTIL THIS IS DONE.
YOU MUST NOT BE HARMED. I HAVE TAKEN A SOLEMN VOW TO SEE THAT YOU RECEIVE YOUR FATHER'S LEGACY.
PLEASE VLADIMIR, GO!

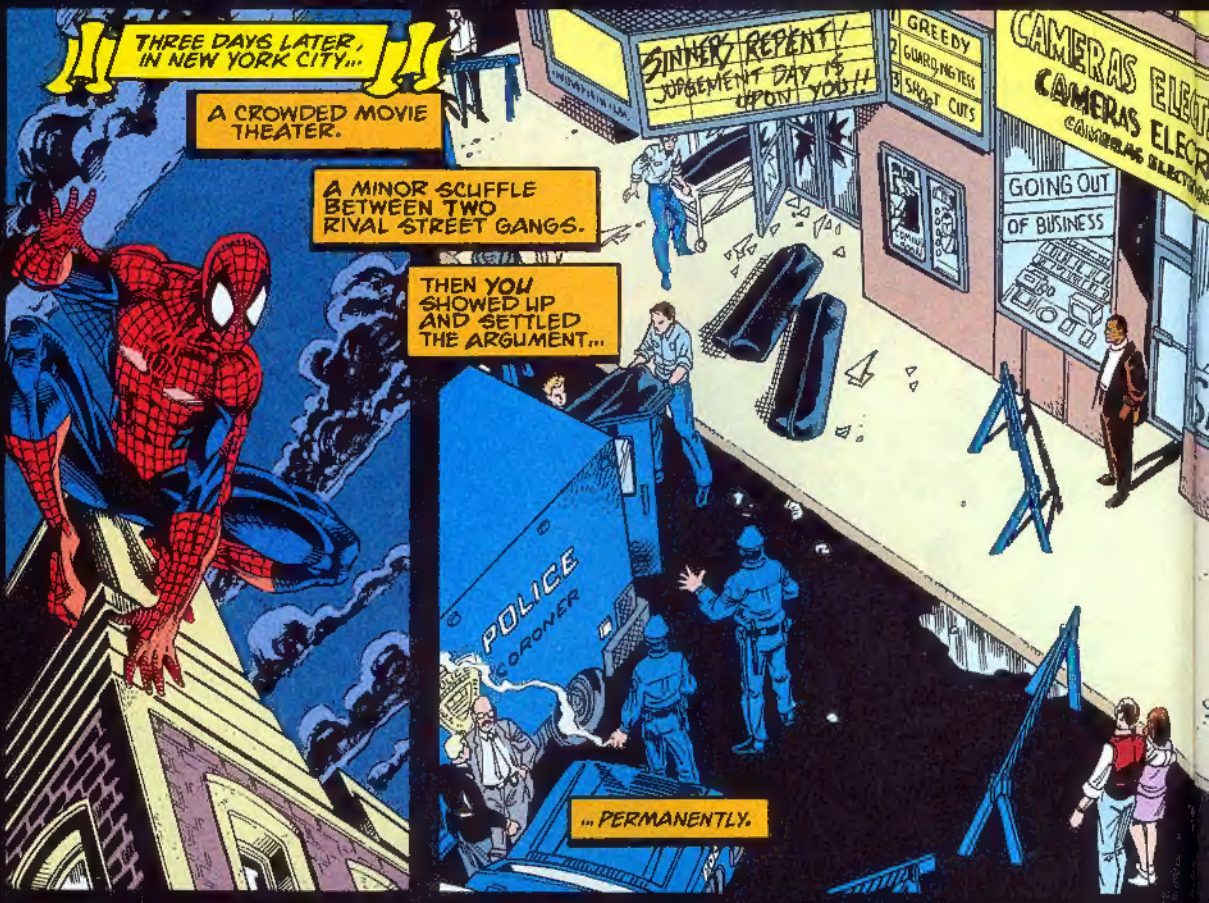

OOH! THAT HURT!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT DIDN'T HURT AS MUCH AS IT SHOULD HAVE!
LOOKS LIKE THE LITTLE EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS!
PTOOM


AT LEAST, FOR ME!

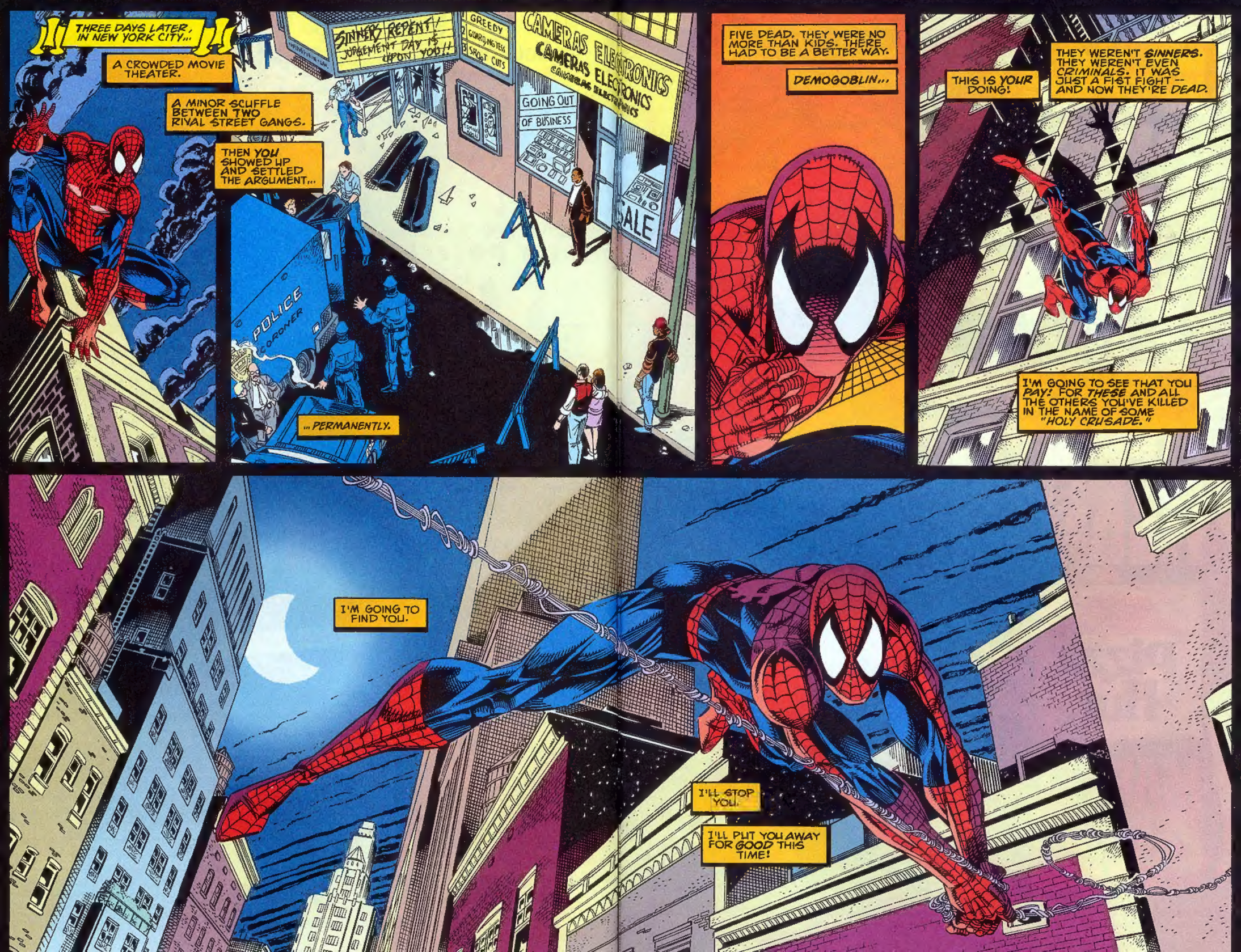

LOOKS LIKE I GOT THE POWER... THE STRENGTH... I WANTED!
YEAH... THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!


SAY GOOD-BYE TO THOSE RIBS, RUSSKIE!
CRAK

END OF FIGHT, GENTLEMEN.
I'D LOVE TO HANG AROUND AND SHOOT THE BREEZE, BUT...
...I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO IN THE GOOD OLD U.S.A. AS...
HOBGOBLIN!
I'M FEELING OBLIGED TO YOU FOR THE NEW STRENGTH, SO...
...THIS THING BETWEEN US ENDS HERE... TONIGHT!
THERE IS NO PERCENTAGE, NOTHING TO BE GAINED, BY US FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
I GOT WHAT I WANTED—AND JUST TO SHOW THAT THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS...
...HERE'S THE REST OF KRAVEN'S JOURNAL
I'M SURE IT'LL BE A HIT AT THE FAMILY REUNION.
TAKE CARE, NOW.
EXPLAIN, GREGOR.
THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN ANOMALY IN HIS BLOOD CHEMISTRY. SOMETHING THAT INTERACTED WITH YOUR FATHER'S SERUM. THE OUTCOME WAS UNPREDICTABLE.
INDEED.


THREE DAYS LATER, IN NEW YORK CITY...
A CROWDED MOVIE THEATER.
A MINOR SCUFFLE BETWEEN TWO RIVAL STREET GANGS.
THEN YOU SHOWED UP AND SETTLED THE ARGUMENT...
SINNERS REPENT! JUDGEMENT DAY IS UPON YOU!!
GREEDY
GUARDING YES
SHORT CUTS
CAMERAS ELEC
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS
POLICE
CORONER
... PERMANENTLY.

I'M GOING TO FIND YOU.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...PERMANENTLY.
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GREEDY
GUARANTEES
SHORT CUTS
CAMERAS ELECTRONICS
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS
SALE
POLICE
CORONER
FIVE DEAD. THEY WERE NO MORE THAN KIDS. THERE HAD TO BE A BETTER WAY.
DEMOGOBLIN...
THIS IS YOUR DOING!
THEY WEREN'T SINNERS. THEY WEREN'T EVEN CRIMINALS. IT WAS JUST A FIST FIGHT -- AND NOW THEY'RE DEAD.
I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU PAY! FOR THESE AND ALL THE OTHERS YOU'VE KILLED IN THE NAME OF SOME "HOLY CRUSADE."
I'M GOING TO FIND YOU.
I'LL STOP YOU.
I'LL PUT YOU AWAY FOR GOOD THIS TIME!

FIVE DEAD. THEY WERE NO MORE THAN KIDS. THERE HAD TO BE A BETTER WAY.
DEMOGOBLIN...
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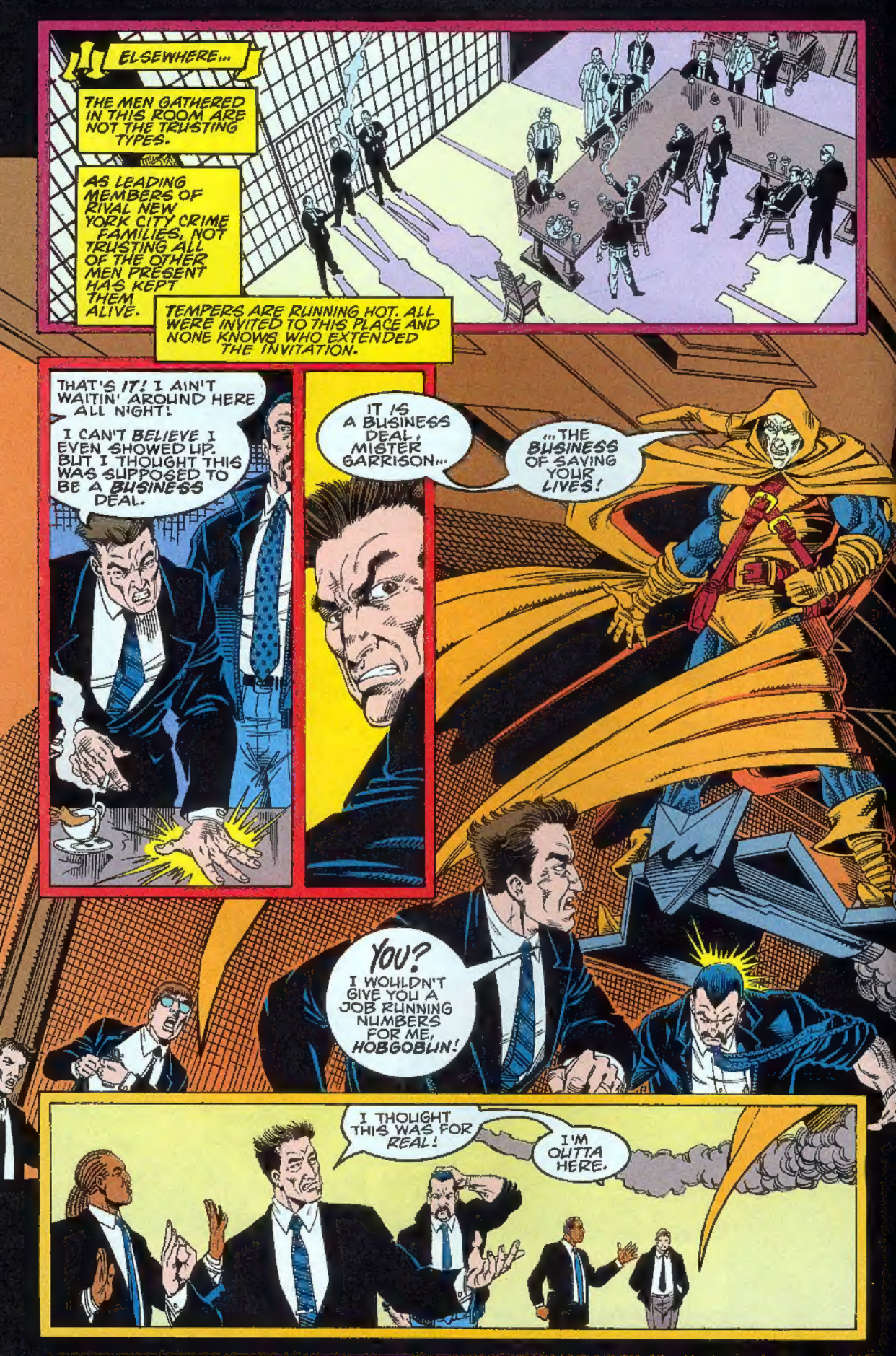
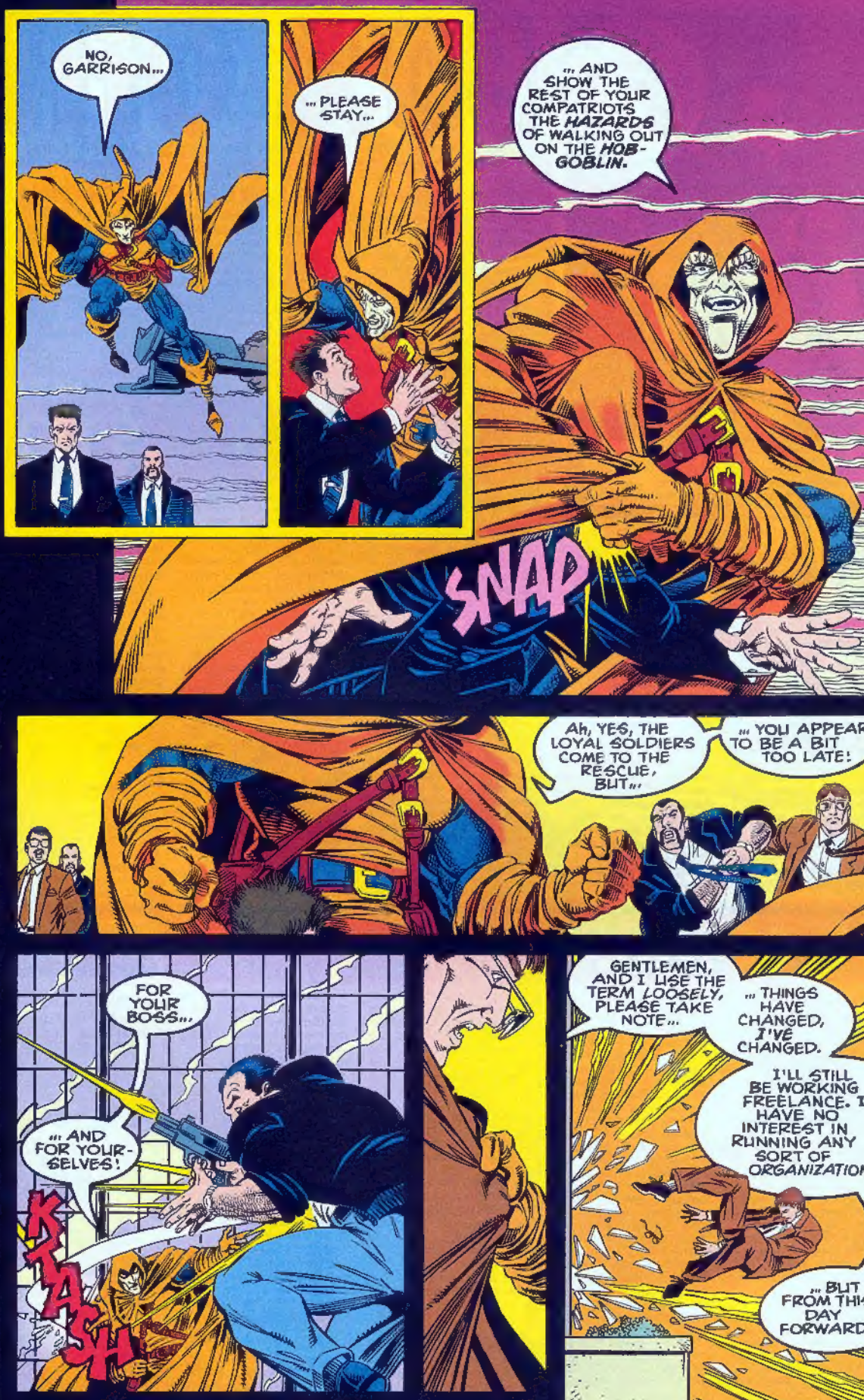

ELSEWHERE...
THE MEN GATHERED IN THIS ROOM ARE NOT THE TRUSTING TYPES.
AS LEADING MEMBERS OF RIVAL NEW YORK CITY CRIME FAMILIES, NOT TRUSTING ALL OF THE OTHER MEN PRESENT HAS KEPT THEM ALIVE.
TEMPERS ARE RUNNING HOT. ALL WERE INVITED TO THIS PLACE AND NONE KNOWS WHO EXTENDED THE INVITATION.
THAT'S IT! I AIN'T WAITIN' AROUND HERE ALL NIGHT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVEN SHOWED UP. BUT I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BUSINESS DEAL.
IT IS A BUSINESS DEAL, MISTER GARRISON...
...THE BUSINESS OF SAVING YOUR LIVES!
YOU?
I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU A JOB RUNNING NUMBERS FOR ME, HOBGOBLIN!
I THOUGHT THIS WAS FOR REAL!
I'M OUTTA HERE.

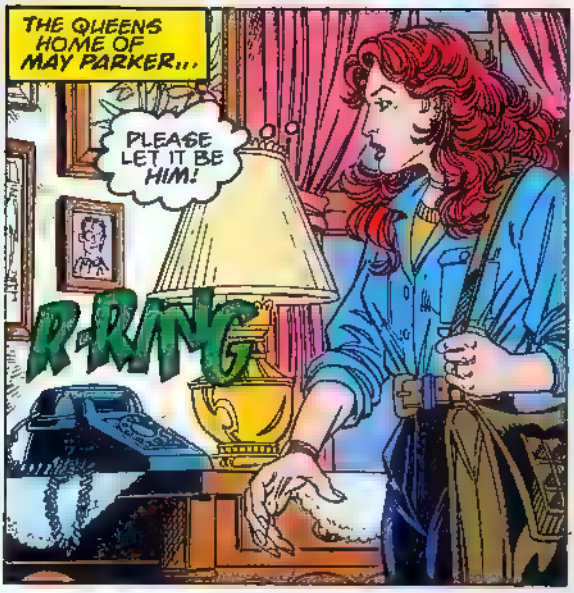

NO, GARRISON...
... PLEASE STAY...
... AND SHOW THE REST OF YOUR COMPATRIOTS THE HAZARDS OF WALKING OUT ON THE HOB-GOBLIN.
SNAP
Ah, YES, THE LOYAL SOLDIERS COME TO THE RESCUE, BUT...
... YOU APPEAR TO BE A BIT TOO LATE!
FOR YOUR BOSS...
... AND FOR YOUR-SELVES!
KTASH
GENTLEMEN, AND I USE THE TERM LOOSELY, PLEASE TAKE NOTE...
... THINGS HAVE CHANGED, I'VE CHANGED.
I'LL STILL BE WORKING FREELANCE. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN RUNNING ANY SORT OF ORGANIZATION..
... BUT FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

... I WILL BE TREATED WITH THE RESPECT I DESERVE. UNDERSTAND?
GOOD. NOW LET ME GET TO THE POINT BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE.
YOU ALL HAVE A PROBLEM. YOUR MEN ARE BEING OFFED BY THIS DEMOGOBLIN.
I WILL RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM OF YOURS...
... FOR A PRICE.
YOU DO THIS FOR US AND YOU CAN NAME YOUR PRICE.
IT WILL BE DONE, MISTER LYNCH.
NOW, GET OUT OF HERE. IF I KNOW DEMOGOBLIN AT ALL... AND WE HAVE BEEN PRETTY CLOSE IN THE PAST... HE'LL BE COMING TO ME.
YOU ALL DON'T WANT TO BE HERE WHEN HE SHOWS UP. I'LL BE BACK LATER TO COLLECT MY PRICE.

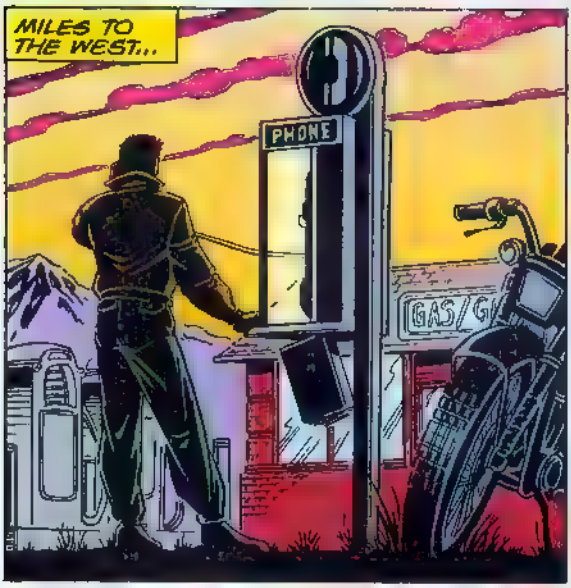
NOT FAR AWAY...
ARE YOU CRAZY OR JUST STUPID?
YOU TWO ARE EXACTLY THE KIND OF GUYS DEMOGOBLIN IS KILLING! DRUG DEALERS! IF I HADN'T PULLED YOU OFF THE STREET YOU WOULD HAVE KILLED EACH OTHER!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU... ANY OF YOU?
WHY ARE YOU STILL ON THE STREETS? HAVEN'T YOU SEEN WHAT HE'S DOING?
LET THE MONSTER KEEP DOING HIS THING. LESS COMPETITION, MAN.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF SOME COSTUMED...
YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID!
VERY AFRAID!
GET THE PICTURE?
THWIP! THWIP!

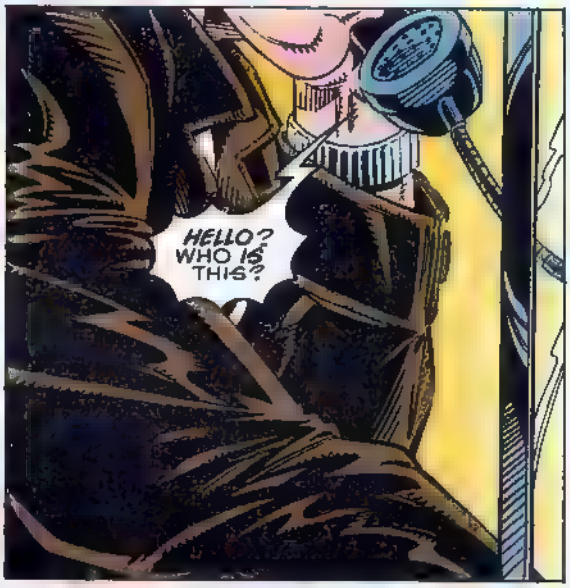
DEMOGOBLIN WOULD HAVE LET YOU KISS THE PAVEMENT.
MAYBE HE HAS THE RIGHT IDEA. IF I LET HIM RUN LOOSE, THERE'D BE MUCH LESS FOR ME TO CLEAN UP.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TAKE YOU IN FOR, BUT YOU HAD BETTER PUT THE WORD OUT. BLOOD IS GOING TO BE RUNNING IN THE STREETS IF YOU AND YOUR KIND DON'T TAKE A LOW PROFILE.
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND CRAWL INTO A HOLE SOMEWHERE UNTIL I'VE CAUGHT DEMOGOBLIN. THEN DO *ME* A FAVOR AND *STAY* THERE.
THAT WEBBED CREEP BOUGHT YOU A REPRIEVE, CHO HE--
WELCOME TO *JUDGEMENT DAY* SINNERS.
I HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
TOO LATE FOR YOU.

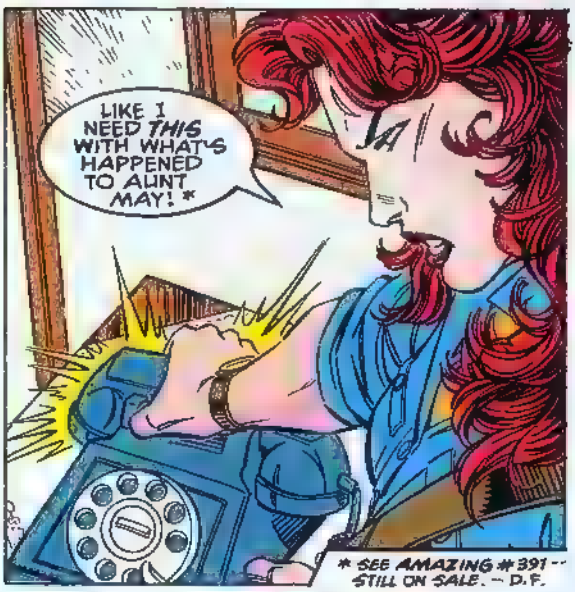
A SHORT TIME LATER...
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
I THOUGHT THE PSYCHIC BOND WE SHARE WOULD DRAW YOU TO ME SOONER.
THERE WERE OTHER SINNERS TO ATTEND TO.
SO, MACENDALE, YOU ARE SURE YOU WANT THIS?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REMAIN TRUE TO MY CAUSE. YOU MUST DIE.
I AM SORRY.
DON'T BE TOO SORRY! IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY THIS TIME, DEMO!
I'VE GONE THROUGH A FEW CHANGES RECENTLY.
CHANGES THAT HAVE GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO GET YOU OUT OF MY LIFE...
... FOR GOOD!

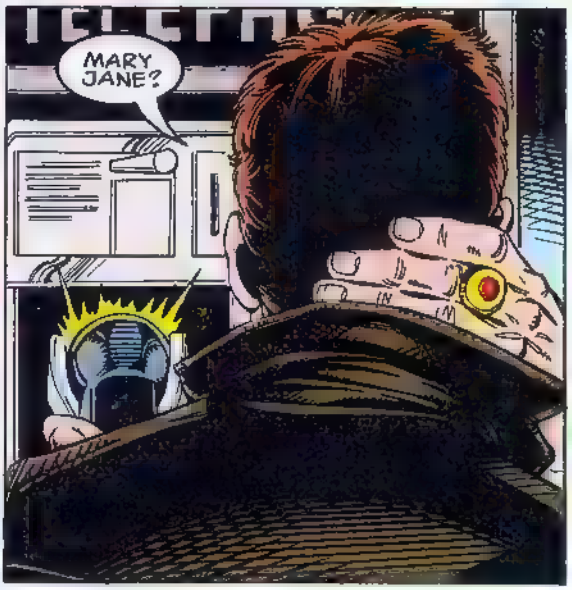

THE QUEENS HOME OF MAY PARKER...
PLEASE LET IT BE HIM!
R-RING

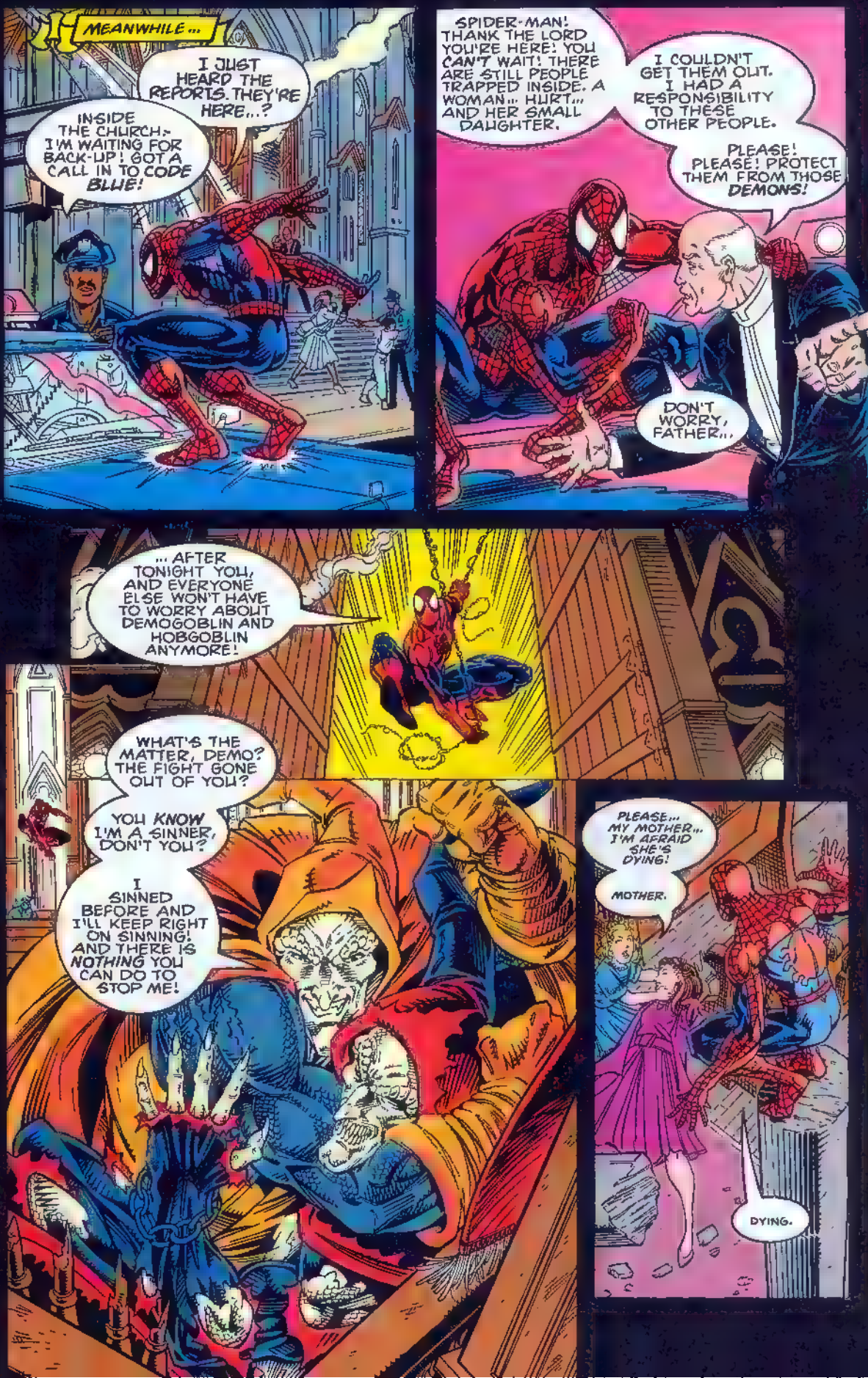
HELLO-- PETER?

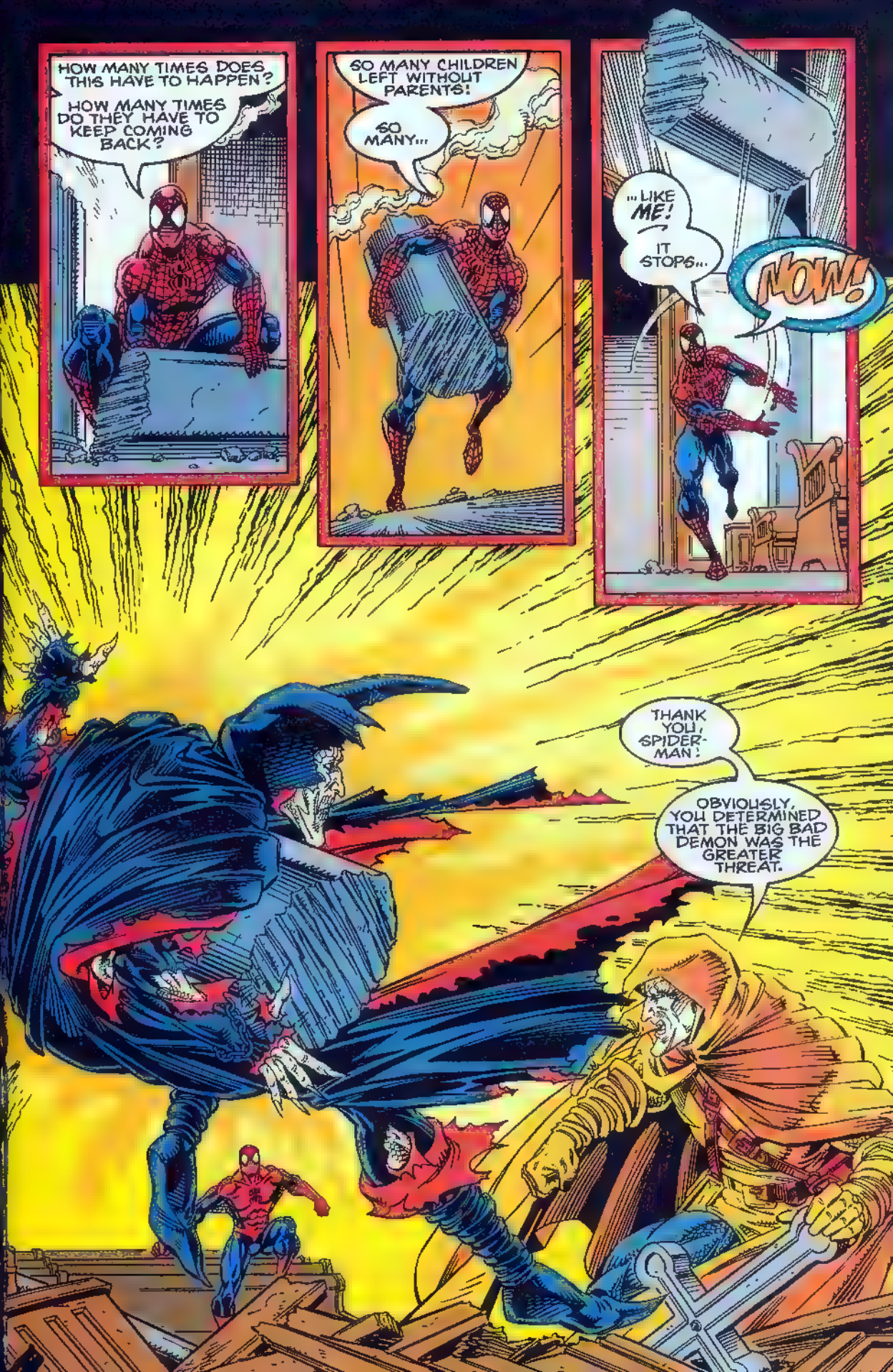

MILES TO THE WEST...
PHONE
GAS/G


HELLO? WHO IS THIS?

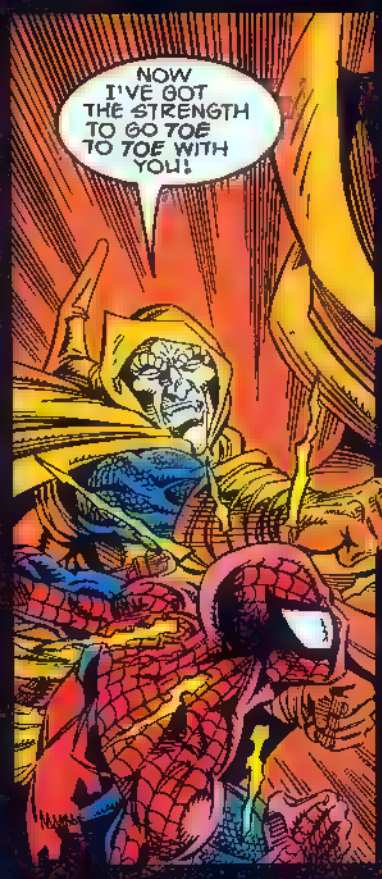

LIKE I NEED THIS WITH WHAT'S HAPPENED TO AUNT MAY! *
* SEE AMAZING #391 -- STILL ON SALE. -- D.F.

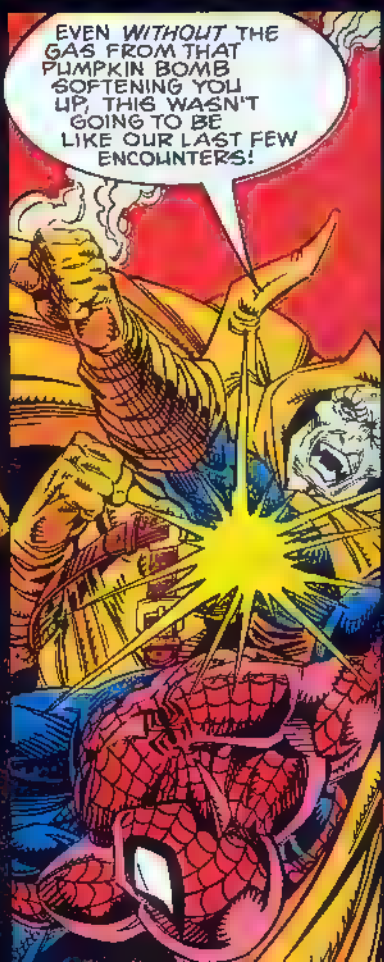

MARY JANE?


MEANWHILE...
I JUST HEARD THE REPORTS. THEY'RE HERE...?
INSIDE THE CHURCH- I'M WAITING FOR BACK-UP! GOT A CALL IN TO CODE BLUE!
SPIDER-MAN! THANK THE LORD YOU'RE HERE! YOU CAN'T WAIT! THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE. A WOMAN... HURT... AND HER SMALL DAUGHTER.
I COULDN'T GET THEM OUT. I HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO THESE OTHER PEOPLE.
PLEASE! PLEASE! PROTECT THEM FROM THOSE DEMONS!
DON'T WORRY, FATHER...
... AFTER TONIGHT YOU, AND EVERYONE ELSE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DEMOGOBLIN AND HOBGOBLIN ANYMORE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEMO? THE FIGHT GONE OUT OF YOU?
YOU KNOW I'M A SINNER, DON'T YOU?
I SINNED BEFORE AND I'LL KEEP RIGHT ON SINNING! AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!
PLEASE... MY MOTHER... I'M AFRAID SHE'S DYING!
MOTHER.
DYING.


HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
HOW MANY TIMES DO THEY HAVE TO KEEP COMING BACK?
SO MANY CHILDREN LEFT WITHOUT PARENTS!
SO MANY...
...LIKE ME!
IT STOPS...
NOW!
THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN!
OBVIOUSLY, YOU DETERMINED THAT THE BIG BAD DEMON WAS THE GREATER THREAT.

NOW YOU FIGURE YOU'LL JUST SWING ON OVER AND TAKE OUT LITTLE OLD HOB-GOBLIN, EVERY-ONE'S PUNCHING BAG, WITH EASE!
GUESS WHAT?
FWOOM
YOU THOUGHT WRONG!


NOW I'VE GOT THE STRENGTH TO GO TOE TO TOE WITH YOU!

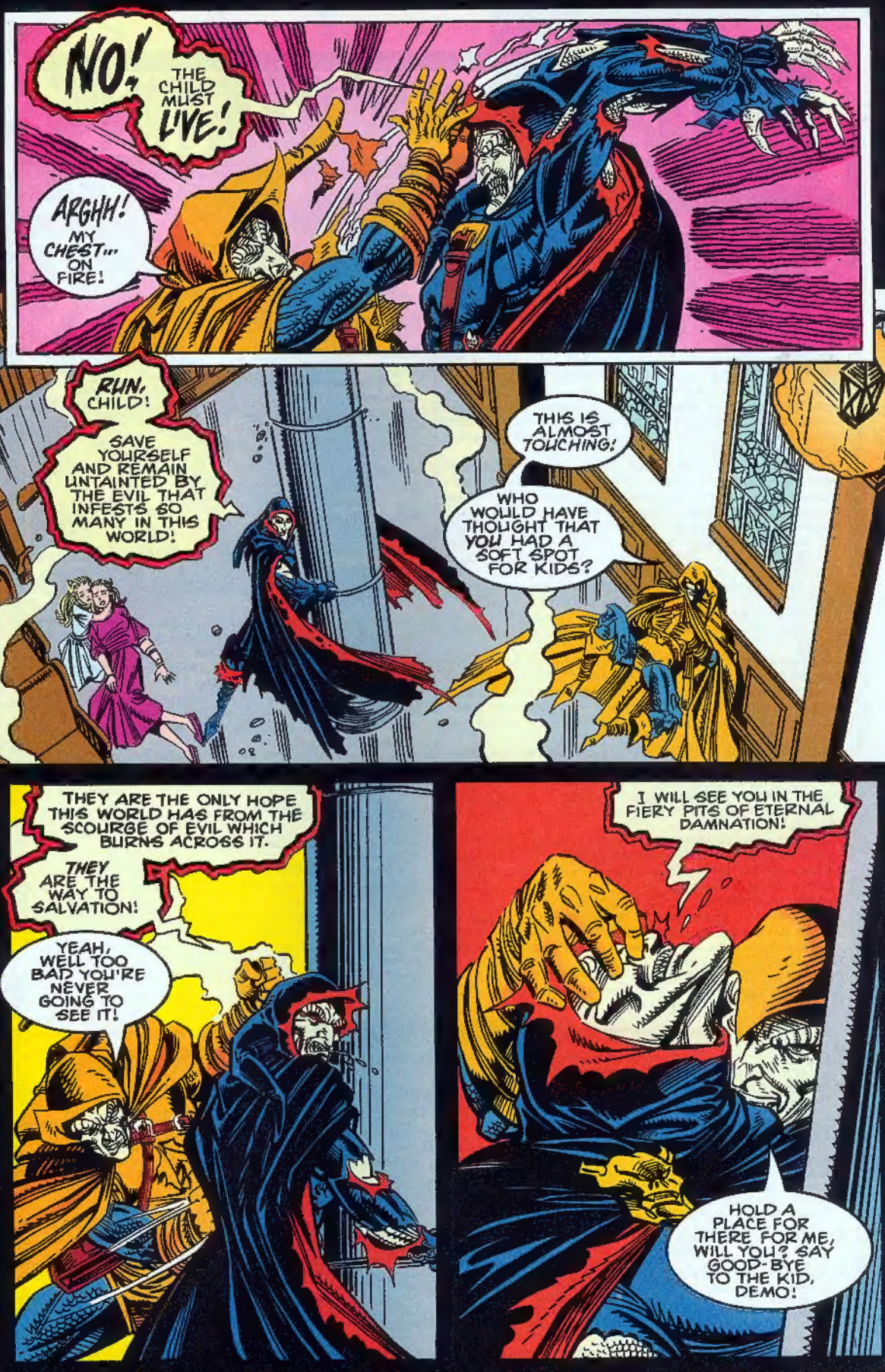

EVEN WITHOUT THE GAS FROM THAT PUMPKIN BOMB SOFTENING YOU UP, THIS WASN'T GOING TO BE LIKE OUR LAST FEW ENCOUNTERS!

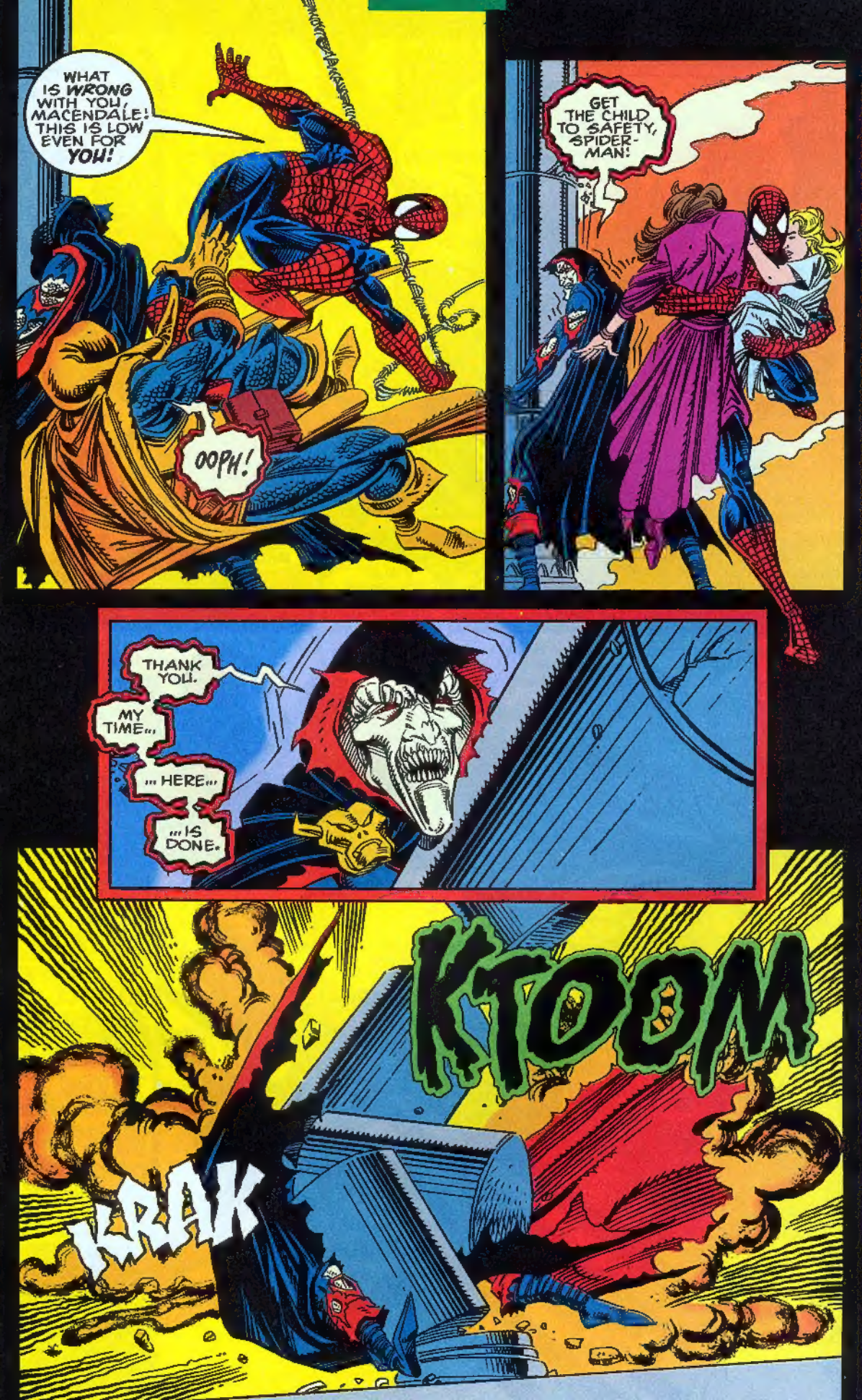
LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES... ISN'T IT?

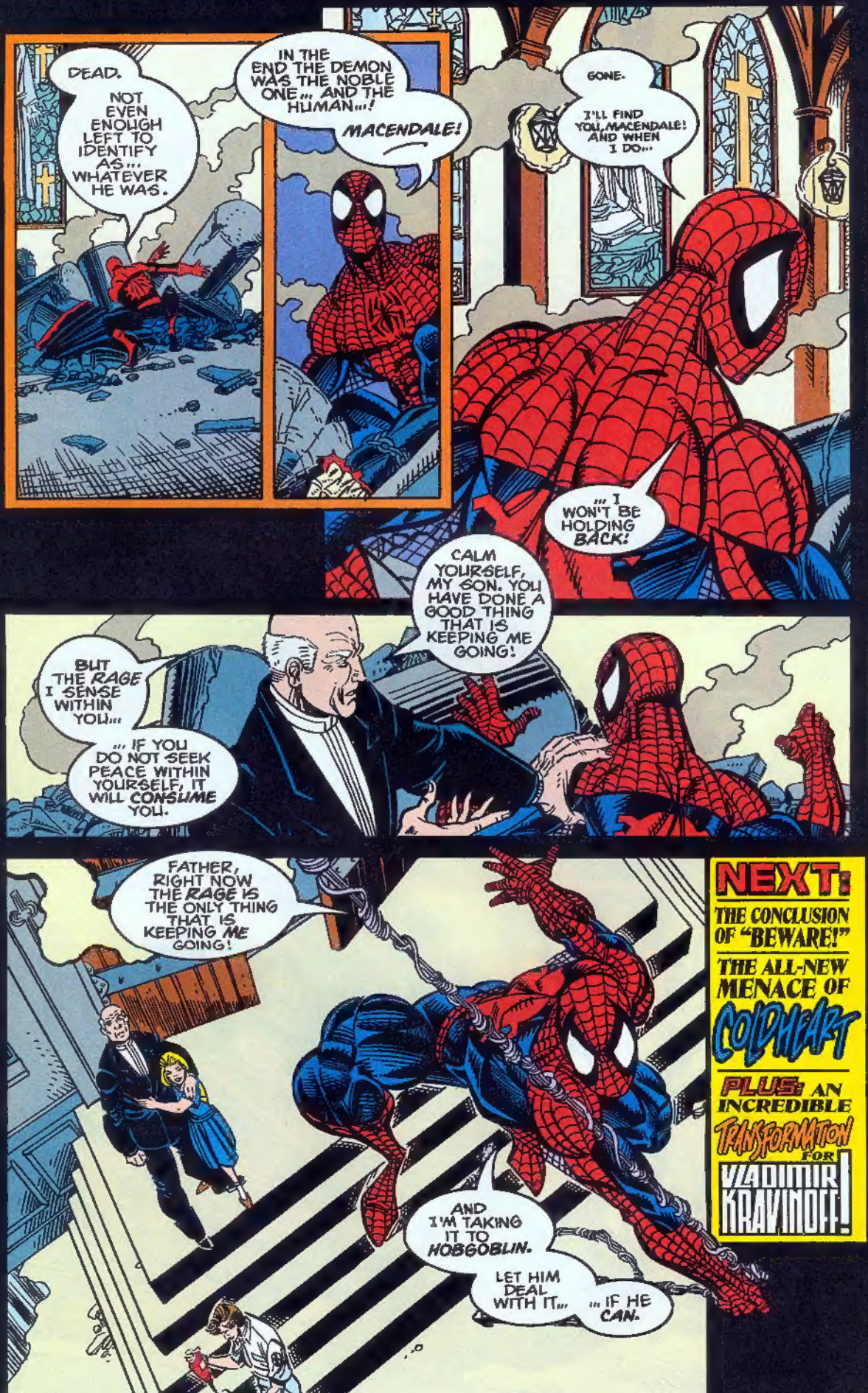
NOW STAY OUT OF THE WAY WHILE I FINISH UP WITH OUR LITTLE DEMONIC BUDDY!
TIME TO SAY GOOD-NIGHT, DEMO!
IN A FEW MINUTES YOU'LL BE OUT OF MY LIFE... AND YOURS... FOR GOOD!

RUSSIA...
I BEG OF YOU, VLADIMIR, DO NOT DO THIS THING. WE ARE NOT READY. WE --
THERE IS NO WE, GREGOR! THERE IS ONLY I!
I AM VLADIMIR KRAVINOFF, SON OF SERGEI... SON OF KRAVEN THE HUNTER!
I SAY I AM READY... NOW!
NOW MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGE-MENTS.
YES, VLADIMIR. I WILL HAVE THE SERUM PREPARED.
MAY YOUR FATHER LOOK OVER YOUR SOUL.
Oh, HE WILL, GREGOR... HE WILL!
AND SOON I WILL HAVE THE LEGACY MY FATHER BEQUEATHED ME.
SOON I WILL BE THE TRUE... SON OF THE HUNTER!

NEW YORK CITY...
MACENDALE IS EASILY AS STRONG AS NORMAN OSBORN WAS AS THE GREEN GOBLIN... PROBABLY STRONGER!
HE'S TEARING DEMOGOBLIN-- AND MOST OF THIS CHURCH-- APART! GOT TO STOP HI--
OMIGOD! THAT PILLAR! THEY'VE SHAKEN IT LOOSE! THE GIRL AND HER MOTHER--!
STILL STUNNED FROM THE GAS AND THE BEATING... HOPE I CAN GET TO THEM IN TIME!
THE CHILD!
IF THERE IS ANY PART OF YOU THAT IS NOT TAINTED WITH EVIL... PLEASE, MACENDALE... SAVE ONE WHO IS STILL PURE OF HEART.
YEAH, LIFE'S TOUGH!
BUT YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER FOR MUCH LONGER, DEMO!


NO! THE CHILD MUST LIVE!
ARGHH! MY CHEST... ON FIRE!
RUN, CHILD!
SAVE YOURSELF AND REMAIN UNTAINTED BY THE EVIL THAT INFESTS SO MANY IN THIS WORLD!
THIS IS ALMOST TOUCHING!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR KIDS?
THEY ARE THE ONLY HOPE THIS WORLD HAS FROM THE SCOURGE OF EVIL WHICH BURNS ACROSS IT.
THEY ARE THE WAY TO SALVATION!
YEAH, WELL TOO BAD YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE IT!
I WILL SEE YOU IN THE FIERY PITS OF ETERNAL DAMNATION!
HOLD A PLACE FOR THERE FOR ME, WILL YOU? SAY GOOD-BYE TO THE KID, DEMO!


WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, MACENDALE! THIS IS LOW EVEN FOR YOU!
OOPH!
GET THE CHILD TO SAFETY, SPIDER-MAN!
THANK YOU.
MY TIME...
...HERE...
...IS DONE.
KRAK
KTOOM


DEAD.
NOT EVEN ENOUGH LEFT TO IDENTIFY AS... WHATEVER HE WAS.
IN THE END THE DEMON WAS THE NOBLE ONE... AND THE HUMAN...!
MACENDALE!
GONE.
I'LL FIND YOU, MACENDALE! AND WHEN I DO...
... I WON'T BE HOLDING BACK!
CALM YOURSELF, MY SON. YOU HAVE DONE A GOOD THING THAT IS KEEPING ME GOING!
BUT THE RAGE I SENSE WITHIN YOU...
... IF YOU DO NOT SEEK PEACE WITHIN YOURSELF, IT WILL CONSUME YOU.
FATHER, RIGHT NOW THE RAGE IS THE ONLY THING THAT IS KEEPING ME GOING!
AND I'M TAKING IT TO HOBGOBLIN.
LET HIM DEAL WITH IT...
... IF HE CAN.
NEXT:
THE CONCLUSION OF "BEWARE!"
THE ALL-NEW MENACE OF COLDHEART
PLUS: AN INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION FOR VLADIMIR KRAVINOFF!

CRAWL SPACE

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MARK BERNARDO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

Thank you so very much for a very refreshing Spider-Man story in SPIDER-MAN #44! I was very excited to see a well-written story with visually impressive art.

I think Mr. Mackie's story touched on a very realistic aspect of Peter Parker: his feelings. I don't know about anyone else, but I like it when a super hero goes out and kicks butt with a real reason, not just 'cause someone spit in his Wheaties. And that was certainly the case this issue.

Messrs. Lyle, Hanna, and Tinsley have collectively rendered a beautiful and powerful Spider-Man. I especially liked what was done with the webbing. I think the webs could be a great visual element, and you have definitely taken a step in the right direction.

I guess what I liked most about this issue is that it reminded me of the Spider-Man stories of my childhood. SPIDER-MAN #44 seemed like the kind of book that a little kid will remember for a long time. Anyway, thanks for the memories, and keep up the great work.

Jay Morse
3829 Leybourn
Toledo, OH 43612

Thanks for the commentary, Jay. The entire creative team (including letterer Richard Starkings, who we think really adds to the overall artistic look of this series) is really excited about being a part of this new era of SPIDER-MAN, and we all could receive no finer compliment than the suggestion that these comics will be a kid's cherished memories of the future. We hope you're continuing to enjoy Spidey's exploits in these pages.

Dear Howard and Tom,

I just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #44, and it was not only the best story and art I've seen lately, but also the most touching.I think of all the various anniversary issues of various comics, such as INCREDIBLE HULK, X-MEN, and even some SPIDER-MAN books, and this issue beat them all. I know it wasn't the character's anniversary, but it was the anniversary of the painful event that made Spidey what he is.

It's good to see a new creative team on SPIDER-MAN. I was getting tired of seeing a different version of the Web-slinger every month.

Tom Rohde
3316 North 19th Street
Superior, WI 54880

Wow! Glad to hear that you thought "The Anniversary Syndrome" beat out all those giant-sized special issues, Tom. And don't forget... in two short, nerve-wracking months, the same creative team that brought you that story will present a true milestone: SPIDER-MAN #50! Trust us: we've just been warming up!!

Dear Spider-people,

I must greatly compliment you on your latest issue of SPIDER-MAN (#44). With the addition of Howard Mackie, Tom Lyle, and Scott Hanna to the team, this book looks better than it has in a long while. I have always been a big fan of Spider-Man, and I think that this book is the best of all the five Spider-books.

The black borders and backgrounds set a dramatic mood for the story, and I like the way emotion was emphasized over action. The action was there, but it's the emotion and drama that make for good stories. I look forward to more epic Spidey tales in the coming months!

Erik Martin
231 Elm Street
Sutherland, NE 69165

We're glad to bring you those epic tales, Erik! Drama and emotion coupled with action has always been the formula for the most memorable Spidey stories, and in the coming months, in *all* the Spidey books, things get more intense than you've ever seen them! Hope you're sticking around for the ride!

Dear Crawl Space,

After reading SPIDER-MAN #44, a few questions come to mind...

1) If Hobgoblin is going to be as weak and easily beaten as he was in this issue, why not just kill him off?

2) Is Tom Lyle going to be the regular artist of this comic? His artwork is outstanding!

3) Is Peter ever going to tell Aunt May he's Spider-Man?

4) Are Puma or the Punisher going to be in any upcoming issues?

Carlos Rodriguez
6983 Edward Street
Detroit, MI 48210

1) As you should know by now, Carlos, Hobgoblin's less than impressive performance in issue #44 was foreshadowing the current storyline wherein he's taken steps to remedy the situation. As this issue should illustrate, Jason Macendale's creepy alter-ego is no pushover any more!

2) Tom is here to stay, as is Scott Hanna, and they thank you for the compliments!

3) Revealing his Spider-Man identity to his Aunt is something Peter has agonized over for years, with no clear answer to his dilemma. And if you've been following AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, you know that events in that book may have taken the decision out of his hands!

4) No plans for an appearance by the Punisher (any of them) in this book, but Puma is soon to return in the pages of AMAZING, and in his own limited series later this year!

NEXT: The final showdown between Spidey and Hobgoblin, as "Beware the Rage of a Desperate Man" concludes! Featuring the debut of the woman called Coldheart! Plus: more on Vladimir Kravinoff! Plus: more on the mysterious figure haunting the Spidey books! Don't miss history in the making!